

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims **10-13**, **41-46**, and **51-58** were pending in the application. In the Office Action claims 10-13, 41-46, and 51-58 were indicated as allowed. Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by a publication to Prinzbach, *et al.*, “Gas-phase production and photoelectron spectroscopy of the smallest fullerene, C₂₀”, *Nature* (2000) 407:60-63 (hereafter “Prinzbach”). Claim 1 was also rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. patent application publication 2002/0122754 to Ryzhkov (hereafter “Ryzhkov”). In this Response, Applicants cancel without prejudice claims 1-9, 14-40 and 47-50. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any cancelled claims in continuing or divisional applications. Upon entry of this Response claims **10-13**, **41-46**, and **51-58** are presented for examination.

Rejections of Claim 1 under 35 USC 102(b)

The cancellation of claim 1 renders unnecessary a response by the Applicants to the reasons for the rejections in view of Prinzbach and Ryzhkov.

Allowed Subject Matter

Applicants respectfully note that claims 10-13, 41-46 and 51-58 were indicated as allowed subject matter in the Office Action.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicants submit that all presently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and early indication thereof is respectfully requested. If the Examiner feels that a telephone call would expedite the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (617) 248-5143.

Applicants believe no additional fees are due with this Response, but if Applicants are in error any fees due or overcharges may be applied to deposit account 03-1721 referencing docket number 0492611-0482.

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